25, WILTON PLACE.
S.W.

April 27/79

My dear Gray

Many thanks for yours of the 16th just received I dare say Engelmann may be quite right about Rhododendron punctatum though it destroys the peculiarly natural character of the genus

I write now to say that in progressing through Polygoneæ I have been struck with the close affinity of Koenigia to Oxyria - each pedicel has a bract which in Koenigia is crenulate and hyaline and only slightly enlarges after flowering whilst in Oxyria especially in the northern large species it acquires a great development and is often tinged like

the stem leaves I should be disposed to make a tribe between Eriogoneae and Polygoneae proper

Eriogoneae with a gamophyllous involucre

Eriogonum
Oxytheca
Centrostegia
Chorizanthe

and

Koenigieae with a separate bract under each flower

Hollisteria
Nemacaulis
Lastarriaea
Pterostegia
Koenigia

Polygoneae proper have no bract under each pedicel

I have not yet worked out all the genera but do not like Meisner's tribes — I think there are subtribes perhaps not easy to character — at any rate Rheum Oxyria Rumex and Emex form a distinct group

the form of the embryo — straight or curved central or lateral with the accumbent or incumbent curve constant in some genera appears to be variable in others.

Pray let me know what you think about Koenigieae

Yours very sincerely

George Bentham

Stigmas capitate & embryo when curved accumbently so in Eriogoneae and Koenigieae

Stigmas dilated or fringed and embryo when curved incumbently so in Rheum and its allies

Stigmas capitate and embryo variable in Polygonum and allies.

The large climbing S. American Polygonum not yet examined